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Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report indicates that Governments have continued to increase their support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and the technical cooperation trust funds. It also shows that UN-Habitat has continued to strengthen and deepen its cooperation and collaboration within the United Nations system, and with Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, including academia, local authorities, the private sector, women and youth. Since the scale and pace of urbanization is leading to unprecedented social, political, economic and environmental change, concerted action is required by the global community. The report recommends that Governments establish national urban policies that address urban development needs through improved urban planning, pro-poor land policy frameworks and legislation, and local economic development to stimulate employment, especially for youth. In the light of the contribution of sustainable urbanization to sustainable development, and of the transformation of cities and urban centres into the dominant habitats of humankind, Member States are invited to promote sustainable urbanization and the role of local authorities in their national development policies and programmes and to ensure the inclusion of an overall goal for cities that are environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically productive in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. The report also calls for action to initiate inclusive processes at the national and regional levels in the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable development using established, broad-based networks.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/21.

II. Global trends in urbanization

2. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat carried out a thorough review of urban conditions and emerging trends in order to more effectively coordinate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In the fourth quarter of 2011, the world population reached the 7 billion mark. This historic event occurred 12 years after the 6 billion mark was reached. Virtually all (93 per cent) of the world's population growth is happening in developing countries. Moreover, all future population growth is expected to take place in urban areas, and nearly all of it in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

3. Today, of every 10 urban residents in the world more than 7 are found in developing countries, which are also host to 82 per cent of the world's population. Of the 187,066 new city dwellers that will be added to the world's urban population every day between 2012 and 2015, 91.5 per cent, or 171,213, will be born in a developing country.

4. However, contrary to common perception, migration from rural to urban areas is no longer the dominant determinant of urban population growth in developing countries. Today, natural increase accounts for some 60 per cent of urban population growth, and the transformation of rural settlements into urban places, a process known as "reclassification", accounts for about 20 per cent.

5. These figures highlight the extent to which the world's population has increasingly come to live in urban areas. For all the clarity of these trends and the benefits that arise from urbanization, few Governments have put in place adequate policy, legislative and regulatory responses to unleash the potential of this phenomenon. In 2009, slightly over two thirds (67 per cent) of countries in the world reported that they had implemented policies to reduce or even reverse migrant flows from rural areas to cities.

6. The flagship report of UN-Habitat, the *State of the World's Cities*, has consistently revealed the true extent of deprivation among the urban poor by demystifying a long-held assumption that the urban poor are better off than their rural counterparts.

7. Understanding current and prospective trends in urban demographic growth is fundamental if appropriate policies and strategies are to be designed and deployed to maximize the benefits of urbanization. This includes taking advantage of opportunities, devising better regional and urban policies, service provision and job creation and planning for the future.

8. Although the developing world features a variety of urban profiles, market forces are leading to the replication of landscape typologies. A defining trait is the outward expansion of cities far beyond their historic administrative limits, largely as a result of the use of the automobile and land speculation. In the developing world, a large number of cities feature land-consuming suburban growth patterns that often extend to even farther peripheries. While the world's urban population grew from

1.98 to 2.84 billion between 1985 and 2000, or a 44 per cent increase, the average city expanded from 13,000 to 33,000 hectares over the same 15-year period, or a 154 per cent surge.

9. Urban sprawl and lower densities are features that place an enormous burden on national and local authorities since the cost of infrastructure provision and maintenance is not fully accounted for in development decisions. This results in wasteful land consumption patterns, loss of often fertile agricultural lands and increased reliance on private cars for transport.

10. Most urban plans and regulatory regimes in the developing world have been unable to prevent the rapid conversion of rural land to urban use in city peripheries, and that is how the reclassification of settlements from rural to urban has become the second determinant of urban growth in the developing world today. This also explains the seemingly limitless expansion of cities.

11. As a result, many cities today remain poorly connected, lack adequate mobility and accessibility, and suffer from poor integration of land use, density and transport. The consequences of these dysfunctions are all too evident: traffic congestion and excessive commuting times, pollution and growing inequalities and levels of urban poverty which distort the urban fabric. In addition to this, discontinuous, scattered and low-density cities raise the costs of public infrastructure and increase energy consumption, adding to the unsustainability of such cities.

12. The implications of the above-mentioned findings are clear. It is no longer possible to act as if unplanned urbanization will generate sustainable development outcomes for all. Doing so risks massive social upheaval, with all of its attendant consequences for peace, economic growth and social stability.

13. While the target of the Millennium Development Goals to have significantly improved the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers was realized in 2010, 62 per cent of the urban population in sub-Saharan Africa was sheltered in slums, followed by 35 per cent in Southern Asia and 31 per cent in South-Eastern Asia. A redoubling of efforts is needed to improve the lives of the urban poor in cities across the developing world.

14. For this reason, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, at its twenty-third session, held from 11 to 15 April 2011, adopted a resolution encouraging countries to enumerate their slum populations and set realistic national, regional and local targets for improving the lives of slum dwellers extending beyond the current Millennium Development Goals target.

III. Forging a more effective and coordinated response

15. UN-Habitat has continued to promote a more effective and coordinated response to current urbanization challenges through, inter alia, its collaboration with other agencies within the United Nations system on policy and programme coordination, including policy coherence, institutional arrangements and programme implementation at the country level. It participates and contributes to inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its three committees, the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group. It is also a member of the Executive Committee

on Humanitarian Affairs and the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs.

16. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, along with all other United Nations agencies, participated in and contributed to discussions on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, in the context of the United Nations task team set up for that purpose. The input of UN-Habitat highlighted two aspects of the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda: the contribution of sustainable urbanization to sustainable development, and the role of local authorities in the process. As already noted, the demographic and economic shifts of the past two decades have transformed cities and urban centres into the dominant habitats of humankind. As a result, the mode of urban development has a critical bearing on the processes leading to the attainment of sustainable development. It is therefore more critical than ever that Member States and United Nations agencies come together to promote sustainable urbanization. The cities of the world's emerging economies are becoming the drivers of the global economy at the same time as the planet's resources are fast depleting. Ways must be urgently found to achieve further economically and socially equitable growth without further cost to the environment. Cities, their spatial frameworks and infrastructure and governance systems constitute a key lever for delivering the transition.

17. Following the outcome of a peer review of the UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013, a number of recommendations were made to improve the effectiveness of the operational and normative work of UN-Habitat. In implementing the recommendations of the review, and as part of a reform initiative that started at the beginning of 2011, UN-Habitat identified three areas as strategically important in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, namely, urban planning and design; urban legislation, land and governance; and urban economy, including municipal finance. The areas provide important frameworks for more efficient and effective delivery of basic services, housing and upgrading of slums, as well as for more effectively responding to both human-made and natural disasters. Improved focus and engagement with partners in these areas will enable UN-Habitat to respond to the challenges and opportunities shaping twenty-first century cities in a more strategic and holistic way. Efforts are also currently focused on developing improved mechanisms to leverage key partnerships in support of the "Delivering as one" approach.

IV. Strategic partnerships at the global level

A. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

18. At its twenty-third session, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat adopted resolution 23/17 on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure. The resolution encourages Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to include the issue of sustainable urban development in their contributions to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Rio+20). In follow-up to the resolution, UN-Habitat has undertaken a thorough review of gaps and emerging challenges emanating from the implementation of Agenda 21 since 1992. On the basis of the review, it has proposed eight sustainable

urban development targets to address: national urban policies; urban planning and design; slums; urban space; urban ecology; urban water, sanitation and waste management; urban energy and mobility; and urban job creation. UN-Habitat has also worked to highlight the critical importance that cities play in terms of the institutional framework for sustainable development.

19. UN-Habitat, in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments, gathered local and regional government leaders and networks together to develop a document entitled "Joint messages of local and subnational governments". The document puts forward recommendations to realize the goal of sustainable urbanization and was presented to the Secretary-General in the presence of member States belonging to the Group of Friends of Sustainable Cities.

B. Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development

20. In its resolution 66/207, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda".

21. With the expectation that it will play an important role in Habitat III, UN-Habitat began, during the reporting period, to prepare a road map for consultations with Member States and requisite departments within the United Nations Secretariat. In response to the requirement that the scope, modalities, format and organization of Habitat III be undertaken in a most efficient and effective manner, UN-Habitat will make use of the sixth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Naples, Italy, from 1 to 7 September 2012, as a means of beginning the consultative process with Member States and Habitat Agenda partners. The "city changer dialogues" Internet platform has been launched as a means of including key stakeholders in critical debates on preparations for Habitat III.

22. Given the ambitious objective set by the General Assembly to define a "New Urban Agenda", Member States are encouraged to begin organizing national processes to assess progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as well as to identify key challenges and lessons learned since the convening of Habitat II in 1996.

C. World Habitat Day

23. World Habitat Day, which was globally celebrated in Aguas Calientes, Mexico, in October 2011, focused on cities and climate change. A congress of the Latin American Association of Planning Schools was held to commemorate the event, focusing on the role that planners and universities can play in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

24. On the occasion of World Habitat Day, the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2011: Cities and Climate Change* was launched. The report, which was prepared with inputs from a number of universities and research institutions in all regions of the world, clarifies the relationship between urban settlements and

climate change and suggests how cities and towns that have not yet adopted climate change policies can begin to do so. The availability of the report in the six official languages of the United Nations has increased its accessibility and use by Governments, Habitat Agenda partners and training and research institutions. World Habitat Day 2011 was celebrated at a total of 250 events in a large number of countries.

D. World Urban Forum

25. Preparations for the sixth session of the World Urban Forum were started during the reporting period. The World Urban Forum serves as a platform where various segments of society can discuss, learn about, practise, agree on and debate different ways to build and sustain a more prosperous urban future for the world's cities. They are expected to identify initiatives and commitments that can be effectively implemented to create cities that are more representative, just, sustainable and humane. The sixth session will start with a worldwide e-debate on various issues related to the urban future and prosperity of cities. The Forum is also intended to re-examine the manner in which UN-Habitat and its partners contribute to guiding and enriching the policy work on sustainable urbanization through open dialogue.

26. The Forum, which convenes every two years, is one of the most open and inclusive gatherings of its kind on the international stage. It brings together Government leaders, ministers, mayors, members of national, regional and international associations, local governments, non-governmental and community organizations, professionals, academics, grass-roots women's organizations, youth and groups of slum dwellers as partners working for better cities. Through the Forum, close to 200 event opportunities are offered to Habitat Agenda partners to network, share best practices and learn from one another.

E. World Urban Campaign

27. During the reporting period, implementation of the World Urban Campaign continued. The World Urban Campaign is a catalytic and transformative partnership that is meant to engage civil society, the business sector, the research community and local and national governments in a global movement that elevates the urban agenda through a positive vision and an understanding of the tremendous benefits offered by cities.

28. More than 50 partners, including professionals, civil society and the private sector, are now part of the Campaign, and five United Nations agencies have also linked their own global campaigns to it. Eight umbrella organizations have made commitments (through memorandums of understanding) to join the campaign on the agreed work and principles relating to sustainable urban development. Two networks, *CitiScope* (print) and *South-South News* (electronic), have joined to promote the World Urban Campaign messages and principles.

29. Achievements to date include the development of an information and knowledge-sharing Internet-based platform for the Campaign; production of campaign materials, a Campaign kit and guidelines based on the recommendations

of and endorsement by the Campaign's Steering Committee; and the addition of important new partners and sponsors.

F. Associations of local authorities

30. As strategic partners in the delivery of the UN-Habitat mandate, the capacity development of local authorities continued to be a priority. An assessment carried out at the end of 2011 indicated that as a result of strengthened capacities, 12 local government associations and regional or global local government training institutions had been equipped to promote sustainable urbanization.

31. Through the United Nations Advisory Committee on Local Authorities, in which UN-Habitat serves as secretariat, the Mayor of Istanbul, who is also President of United Cities and Local Governments, led efforts to implement a four-year work programme to integrate sustainable principles and good practices, in such areas as urban mobility, job creation and local productivity, environmental resilience and municipal finance, into the planning, management and governance activities of cities that are members of the Committee and of the non-governmental organization.

32. UN-Habitat assisted mayors and local authorities from around the world in preparing a statement on resilient cities at the 3rd meeting of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva, in May 2011. The meeting called for the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the Campaign on the theme "Making cities resilient — my city is getting ready".

G. Youth

33. The Youth 21 Forum was held from 15 to 18 March 2012 in Nairobi. The first component of the Forum was an international multi-stakeholder consultation, led by UN-Habitat and devoted to strengthening youth engagement and participation within the United Nations system. The session served as a consultation among youth to identify related concerns and recommendations for consideration by the Secretary-General.

34. The second component of the Forum focused on global youth leadership in governance and provided space for 300 youths and other stakeholders to develop activities and mechanisms through which youth can directly engage in global governance and decision-making activities, which are necessary to strengthen democratic citizenship and ensure effective youth participation.

35. UN-Habitat continued to strengthen the engagement of urban youth in developing effective strategies for addressing issues that affect them. The use of professional youth artists contributed to raising the global profile of the urban youth agenda. Through the Messengers of Truth Initiative, UN-Habitat worked closely with some of the world's leading popular artists and musicians to raise awareness on matters ranging from women's rights to urban slum conditions. Four youth envoys were nominated during the twenty-third session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council. UN-Habitat has appointed internationally acclaimed "Bollywood" and "Nollywood" film actors from India and Nigeria, respectively, to empower young people in their communities.

36. UN-Habitat continued to affirm its role as a leading agency in bringing the issue of urban youth to the global agenda, highlighting the contribution of youth to sustainable urban development through the regional urban youth assembly platform held in Abuja in July 2011. The event attracted senior Government officials, non-governmental organizations, local authority representatives and over 300 youth from 23 African countries. Through the theme "Youth and the prosperity of cities", the participants shared lessons and best practices from youth initiatives and Government policies promoting youth employment and youth involvement in a number of areas related to the urban economy, environment and equity.

37. UN-Habitat worked closely with the International Olympics Committee to support a number of youth and sports projects in Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal, in the context of UN-Habitat water and sanitation programmes. As part of UN-Habitat's work to promote safer cities, nearly 1 million footballs donated by the Hyundai Motor Company were distributed to countries in Africa. The project has enhanced youth development by using sports as a tool to empower youth and has promoted youth inclusion in urban development.

38. Three regional capacity-building workshops were conducted for 61 coordinators of youth projects that had benefited from the 2010 Urban Youth Fund. The training on project and financial management enhanced the capacity of the coordinators to better manage their projects and achieve higher success rates.

39. Preparation of the *State of Urban Youth* report is a key outcome of UN-Habitat work addressing youth. The 2012-2013 report will be launched during the sixth session of the World Urban Forum.

H. Gender mainstreaming

40. Through the Gender Equality Action Plan, UN-Habitat continued to advocate, build capacity and strengthen gender mainstreaming through a variety of activities and empowerment programmes. The report, *Gender Equality for Smarter Cities: Challenges and Progress*, published in February 2010, was one of the most-read UN-Habitat publications.

41. UN-Habitat continued to participate in the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee Network on Gender Equality. Other areas of partnership/collaboration have been in the United Nations system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and UN-Habitat has been contributing to the draft indicator set.

42. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN-Habitat launched a joint global programme on safe and friendly/sustainable cities for all. The programme enables local authorities and women, youth and children's advocates to take actions to increase safety and prevent and reduce violence in their cities and neighbourhoods. The partner cities proposed for the first phase of the programme are Dushanbe; Greater Beirut; Marrakesh, Morocco; Metro Manila; Nairobi; Rio de Janeiro; San José; and Tegucigalpa.

43. The UN-Habitat Water and Sanitation Programme has successfully mainstreamed gender into its activities. The organization has also promoted

women's access to security of tenure and has challenged structural inequalities such as legislation on land and housing that discriminates against women. The work on governance and security in cities has raised the problem of "gender-blindness" within local government institutions.

I. South-South cooperation

44. As part of its sustainable urban transport programme, strengthened awareness about the importance of policies and investment for sustainable urban transport infrastructure in developing countries and emerging economies as well as intensified North-South and South-South collaboration was achieved. UN-Habitat supported participants from Africa, Latin America and Asia at Velo-city Global, 2011, the world's premier cycling conference.

45. The Medellin Laboratory, which includes 10 best practices on urban safety, slum upgrading and integrated urban sustainable development projects, was launched in 2011 as part of the South-South cooperation promoted by UN-Habitat.

46. A compendium on urban safety practices from 31 municipalities was developed, as was a compendium of 10 good practices on urban safety and slum upgrading (integrated in urban sustainable development) projects. Both have been disseminated as part of South-South cooperation activities. The experiences gained and successes achieved by many countries in the South have provided valuable impetus, ideas and means for other countries in the South to address similar concerns and challenges.

47. Twenty-four Arab States and African countries endorsed a regional framework to foster international cooperation for better access to public safety services in those States and aimed at increasing South-South cooperation on urban safety issues.

J. "Delivering as one"

48. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat remained active in six of the eight pilot "Delivering as one" countries: Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. National Habitat programme managers have taken the lead in the complex task of planning and implementing the joint programme. During the reporting period, an evaluation of the performance of UN-Habitat in those countries demonstrated that the initiative had increased the impact of ongoing advocacy work, increased the visibility of the Habitat Agenda, and provided opportunities to improve, in partnership with host Governments, the impact of country programmes and to expand activities and financial resources to realize the goal of sustainable urbanization.

V. Capacity-building and technical advisory services

A. Urban legislation, land and governance

49. UN-Habitat continued to mobilize and support Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to implement improved land and housing policies. As at December 2011, a total of 37 countries (compared with 33 in 2010) were developing,

implementing or completing land and housing reforms with the support of UN-Habitat. The new countries are Burundi, where a land policy revision resulted in the approval of a new policy; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where land mediation programmes are being linked to national and local land policy and administration; Iraq, where access to land tenure is used to ensure adequate housing delivery; and South Sudan, where the resolution capacity of the Land Commission in respect of land disputes is being developed.

50. With the adoption by the Governing Council of resolution 23/17, Member States repositioned housing to the core of sustainable urban development by calling for the development of a new global housing strategy that integrates housing policies into broader urban planning strategies and social, economic and environmental policies.

51. Vulnerable groups in Africa are set to gain more equitable access to land, owing to the Land Policy Initiative implementation plan, which was developed during the reporting period by the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, with UN-Habitat support. The framework and guidelines of the Initiative were approved by African Heads of State and the African regional economic communities (Economic Community of West African States, East African Community and Southern African Development Community) in 2011.

B. Urban planning and design

52. During 2011, some progress was made towards more effective planning legislation and tools that could enable cities to better plan their future developments in a sustainable manner through intergovernmental decisions and national policy initiatives, in particular in the areas of urban planning and safer cities and in response to climate change vulnerability and environmental degradation.

53. As a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, UN-Habitat contributed to the preparation of the Panel's fifth assessment report. The report will be an important resource for ongoing climate change debates and negotiations.

54. UN-Habitat also contributed to regional efforts to address climate change and disseminate lessons learned by organizing a workshop for 13 countries in Africa on selected practices related to urban planning and climate change.

C. Urban economy

55. About 1,000 young people received training at UN-Habitat youth centres in Nairobi, Kampala and Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in computer knowledge, entrepreneurship, drug and substance abuse, art and sports. The training has enabled them to access funding from financial institutions, gain knowledge and information on employment opportunities and participate in decision-making processes in their cities. An additional 450 young people received training on climate change, focusing on mitigation and adaptation in three cities. The training has helped them to learn about greenhouse gas emission and its causes, and about ways to respond to climate change by reducing the vulnerability of natural and

human systems. As a result, the participants have formed "green teams" for implementing self-employment initiatives.

56. The University of Johannesburg, South Africa, institutionalized a local government training course which, among other things, draws upon UN-Habitat training material on strategic planning for local economic development. The course provides local government officials with the necessary strategic planning skills for enhanced local economic development.

57. The capacity of local government staff in Liberia was developed in the areas of leadership development, urban financial management and local economic development. Eighty per cent of the participants in an impact assessment workshop, which reviewed two years of work and the results of the training provided to 3,000 staff, reported noticeable improvements in the timeliness and cost-efficiency of decision-making processes.

58. In partnership with UN-Habitat, the organization Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA) and its urban popular economy programme (ECOPOP) supported three municipalities in Senegal (Kaolack, Méckhé and Rufisque-Est) in participatory budgeting processes. A total of 180 participants were trained, and participatory budgeting committees were formed through which sanitation and electrification projects were prioritized and funded.

D. Urban basic services

59. UN-Habitat-supported policy reforms and ongoing programmes in the water and sanitation sectors increased the number of beneficiaries of those services. For example, in India in 2011 an estimated 10,650 and 6,900 people, respectively, benefited from improved water supply and sanitation services. In Nepal, an estimated 24,000 and 14,000 people similarly benefited. In the Mekong Region (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam), about 53,000 people benefited from improved water supply service, 155,000 from sanitation projects and nearly 6,000 from solid waste management programmes.

60. Advocacy and technical support provided to local authorities and water service providers resulted in the adoption of a financing mechanism targeting poor households. Pro-poor tariffs were formulated in 5 towns in Cambodia, 10 towns in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and 6 towns in Viet Nam. In Nepal, microcredit schemes to poor households on affordable interest rate have benefited 300 households with sanitation services, and 500 taps were connected in nine small towns. In India, UN-Habitat established a revolving fund to microfinance water and sanitation services for the poor. So far, the initiative has enabled the construction of more than 7,000 household toilets and has improved access to water supplies for more than 3,000 households. Innovative financing tools for water and sanitation service providers are also being promoted in El Salvador.

61. UN-Habitat continued to provide technical and advisory support on water and sanitation to partner countries through policy dialogue, sector review and strategy development. The efforts have had a catalytic effect on national policy reforms for improved access to basic urban services. For example, as a member of the development partners group in Kenya, UN-Habitat participated in the water sector coordination process and contributed to the ongoing policy dialogue on water sector

reform and the legislative changes to be made in the Water Act as a result of the new constitution that was adopted in November 2010. In Nepal, a sector status report was discussed at the first joint sector review, held in Kathmandu in May 2011. Recommendations drawn from the review are expected to have a major impact on the future sector policy.

62. Significant progress was made in the development, adoption and implementation of sanitation and solid waste management plans and legislation. The Solid Waste Management Act, developed in Nepal, was approved and disseminated to all municipalities. Following the approval of the Act, the Asian Development Bank provided technical assistance for the organizational development of a solid waste management technical support centre. In India, the city sanitation plans for Gwalior and Nasrulganj were finalized, supporting the urban local bodies in attracting increased funding support.

63. UN-Habitat adopted policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation of programmes in urban mobility and pro-poor sanitation, as addressed in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its nineteenth session (E/2011/29). Such options and measures provide the critical ingredients for sustainable development that will facilitate advancement of the principles of sustainable urbanization in the new vision of UN-Habitat.

64. Through the advocacy of the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance programme, water operator partnerships are being institutionalized as capacity-building strategies through different frameworks, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which promoted such partnerships in its guidelines on public policies for water and sanitation in the region. Agence française de développement has adopted such partnerships as an approach to the capacity-building components of its loans and grants to utilities, and the national water associations (of Brazil, Mexico and Pakistan), which represent hundreds of municipal basic service providers, have launched and are implementing national water operator platforms to help to develop the capacity of their members through the partnerships.

E. Housing and upgrading of slums

65. In resolution 23/17, adopted at its twenty-third session, held in April 2011, the Governing Council encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to promote security of tenure for all segments of society by recognizing and respecting a plurality of tenure systems and by strengthening tenure rights. This was further endorsed by 80 Global Land Tool Network partners in November 2011, who reported the implementation of pro-poor land tools to improve tenure security within a land governance framework. In resolution 23/16, the Governing Council supported the formulation of a new global housing strategy. With the support of a number of partners, UN-Habitat is conducting intensive global housing research activities to assess and reflect on the regional trends, dynamics and issues related to the housing sector over past decades.

66. A total of 33 countries (17 in Africa and the Middle East; 10 in Asia and the Pacific region; 5 in Latin American and the Caribbean region; and 1 in Europe) are currently implementing slum prevention and improvement policies with the support of UN-Habitat. UN-Habitat and partners, including the World Bank Institute, the

German Agency for International Cooperation, the Inter-American Development Bank and Cities Alliance, have completed the revision of the national slum upgrading frameworks of nine countries (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Morocco, South Africa, Thailand and Tunisia), which are also being replicated in five more countries (Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya). This has provided a good opportunity for knowledge-sharing and capacity development and will have a positive impact on the slum upgrading and prevention initiatives at the country level.

67. An expert group meeting on forced evictions, hosted by UN-Habitat in September 2011, formally recognized the commitment and unique role of UN-Habitat in promoting socially inclusive and sustainable cities and effective slum prevention and upgrading initiatives. Participants recommended the formalization of the UN-Habitat human rights mandate, in particular regarding the right to adequate housing and the right not to be forcibly evicted, and highlighted the need to use the rights-based approach in the development of housing policies and programmes. Strategies to promote the full and progressive realization of those rights were also refined.

68. In the Andean region, five countries (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) have committed to the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples to adequate housing, through a comprehensive policy review process stimulated by a UN-Habitat-led research initiative that promoted the local debate on housing rights, policy formulation processes and implementation tools.

F. Risk reduction and rehabilitation

69. UN-Habitat and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction are providing technical advice and expertise to support a worldwide campaign on the theme "Making cities resilient: my city is getting ready". The campaign has developed a number of tools and methodologies to allow cities to establish baselines and to identify planning and investment gaps for risk reduction and climate change adaptation. A national conference was organized in Rwanda to raise awareness of the importance of making cities resilient and to familiarize participants with the concept of disaster risk reduction and approaches to reducing risk in urban areas.

70. UN-Habitat forged relationships with Inter-Agency Standing Committee partners (including UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the World Food Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) and embraced a neighbourhood approach to reconstruction, drawing upon community enumeration methodologies. The methodologies, experimented upon in Haiti, are now being adopted by other United Nations agencies, including the International Organization for Migration and non-governmental organizations.

71. Strengthened headquarters support for humanitarian work was provided to a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Haiti, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka and the Sudan. In addition, UN-Habitat's country-level work was profiled in a series of brochures on land and property, housing, and urban planning, including a UN-Habitat newsletter on Somalia.

72. UN-Habitat participated in revising the reconstruction guidelines on disaster and post-disaster areas jointly with reconstruction working groups in the housing sectors of the above-mentioned countries. This has resulted in increased use of UN-Habitat technical advice to strengthen urban water supply, sanitation and basic services programmes in urban humanitarian activities conducted by humanitarian agencies such as UNICEF, UNHCR and Oxfam.

G. Research and capacity development

73. The flagship reports of UN-Habitat have become important tools for awareness-raising and policy advocacy at the regional, national and city levels. There is a growing demand for regional and national versions of the *State of the World's cities*, which are influencing policy debates and decisions at the national and local levels. The *State of Mexican Cities Report*, for example, has stimulated high-level policy debate and received wide media coverage.

74. The flagship reports have been referenced in 5,360 media articles (English language only) and in 21,000 website articles.

75. UN-Habitat has established the Habitat Partner University Initiative, with the aim of strengthening urban education, urban research, the capacity development of urban professionals and the provision of evidence-based policy advice to local governments. Almost 1,000 faculty members from more than 200 universities globally have joined the network. The Global Planning Education Association Network, representing nine regional and national planning education associations, which in turn have more than 300 university members, signed a memorandum of understanding with UN-Habitat to strengthen urban planning education worldwide.

76. Through 27 Government training institutions, UN-Habitat has provided support for capacity development to strengthen local authorities. In partnership with the Institute of Public Security in Barcelona and the partners of the Police Platform for Urban Development, a training curriculum has been developed for policing public events in Africa. For Latin America, a similar programme has been developed to address the needs of at-risk youth through the promotion of urban policies for social cohesion and public safety. Three training sessions have been provided to 60 participants of police institutions from Latin America and anglophone and francophone African countries.

77. UN-Habitat training and capacity development efforts in the field of sustainable urban development have expanded its partnerships with universities. The African Association of Planning Schools (a network of 42 tertiary planning institutions) has developed and is using a curriculum on climate change and African cities in planning education, which draws on UN-Habitat experiences.

78. With the assistance of an expert from the African Capacity-Building Foundation, UN-Habitat supported 26 local and national training institutions on strengthening capacity for formulating results and outcomes as an integral part of planning by local authorities.

79. Over 20 municipalities in East Africa have benefited from a diploma course on urban development studies that was prepared and administered by the Lake Victoria City Development Strategies Initiative, in collaboration with the Institute for

Housing and Urban Development Studies in the Netherlands. The diploma course is now in its second year.

VI. Funding

80. UN-Habitat's ability to coordinate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda is very much influenced by the level of financial contributions that it receives, especially for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and the technical cooperation trust funds. The financial status of UN-Habitat as at December 2011 indicated that total contributions received amounted to $228.6 million. The distribution of the income was as follows: $17.3 million in non-earmarked contributions, representing a shortfall of 39 per cent against the annual target of $28.5 million; $198.6 million in earmarked resources, exceeding the annual target of $126 million by 58 per cent; and $12.7 million from the United Nations regular budget.

81. Although the earmarked income has exceeded the target, the shortfall in non-earmarked contributions, by comparison, has required UN-Habitat to bring expenditures in line with actual income. On the positive side, increased earmarked income has enabled UN-Habitat to collaborate more effectively with United Nations agencies and other partners in implementing the Habitat Agenda at the country level during the reporting period, especially in post-disaster and post-conflict contexts.

82. In addition, in order to achieve more effective and efficient delivery of the UN-Habitat mandate at the country, regional and global levels, a review and rationalization of the organizational structure of UN-Habitat was initiated in 2011, focusing on improved programme alignment and increasing productivity.

83. Mindful of the unpredictable global economic situation and funding levels, UN-Habitat will continue to vigorously pursue the implementation of its resource mobilization strategy to support sustainability and predictability of financial resources while simultaneously expanding and consolidating its donor base. With respect to this, it will also continue collaborating with global and regional financial institutions, as well as with other partners within and outside the United Nations system.

VII. Recommendations

84. Since the scale and pace of urbanization are leading to unprecedented social, political, economic and environmental changes, concerted action is required by the global community. The greater part of this growth is happening in an unplanned manner or through inappropriate and unsustainable approaches, thus posing significant challenges to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals.

85. Governments are therefore encouraged to establish national urban policies that address urban development needs through: (a) improved urban planning and design; (b) pro-poor urban legislative, land policy and governance frameworks; (c) effective local economic development policies that generate decent jobs and livelihoods, especially for youth; and (d) effective delivery of urban basic services, especially to poor communities.

86. In the light of the contribution of sustainable urbanization to sustainable development, and of the transformation of cities and urban centres into the dominant habitats of humankind, Member States are invited to promote sustainable urbanization and the role of local authorities in their national development policies and programmes, and to consider the environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically productive roles of cities in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

87. Taking into consideration paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 66/207, in which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), Member States are encouraged to initiate inclusive processes at the national and regional levels in their preparations for Habitat III, using established, broad-based networks such as national habitat committees, associations of local authorities, habitat professional forums, and youth and civil society organizations. Member States in a position to do so are encouraged to provide financial support for Habitat III, including for the preparatory process and for the participation of least developed countries.